

to be marked off on a brass bar. A parliamentary committee in 1758 had a copy made of the Royal Society's Standard, and subsequently this and another copy were placed in the charge of the Speaker, but no Bill making them legal standards was carried. After the labours of several committees, an Act was passed in 1824, in which the yard marked on the brass rod deposited in the charge of the Speaker in 1760 was made the standard yard when measured at a temperature of 62° Fah. It was further stated in the Act that the seconds pendulum in the latitude of London was 39.1393 inches long. This would have enabled scientists to construct an exact yard, supposing the standards lost or damaged. The standard weight was declared to be the weight of one cubic inch of distilled water at 62° Fah., such weight being 252.458 grains, the pound Troy was defined as 5,760 grains, and the pound Avoirdupois as 7,000.

In 1834 the Houses of Parliament were destroyed by fire, and the standards were injured. Errors had been discovered in the measurements of the seconds pendulum, so that was useless for the purpose of restoring the standards. The Commission appointed in 1838 to report on the best way to restore and keep the standards, recommended that copies be made of some reliable copies of the standard of 1760; that minute precautions should be taken to preserve these; that one should be hermetically sealed, and embedded in the masonry of some public building, only to be opened by an Act of Parliament.

A scientific committee was appointed to construct the standard yard, and the standards of weight and capacity. The work done by the scientists was enormous. Thousands of observations were made, and all possible precautions taken. The result of the labours of the section concerned with the yard was, that out of a number of standards presented to the Parliament, six were regarded as accurate. These were adopted in 1855. No. 1 was regarded as the standard yard, and was deposited in the office of the Exchequer. It was enacted in 1855 "that the straight line or distance between the centres of the transverse lines in the two gold plugs in the bronze bar deposited in the office of the Exchequer shall be the genuine standard yard at 62° Fah.; and if lost it shall be replaced by means of its copies." Of the copies, No. 1 is in the Royal Mint; No. 2 is kept by the Royal Society; No. 3 is at the Royal Observatory at Greenwich; No. 4 was built in the lower hall at